

VZCZCXRO7879
PP RUEHPT
DE RUEHBY #0953/01 2960712
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 230712Z OCT 09
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2174
INFO RUCNGT/G TWENTY COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 5550
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 9935
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0147
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 6726
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 4992
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 4989

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CANBERRA 000953

NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/23/2019

TAGS: [AS](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#)

SUBJECT: ON G8 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: YES TO PARTNERSHIP, NO
TO G8

Classified By: Counselor for Political/Economic Affairs Edgard D. Kagan
, Reasons 1.4(b)(d)

11. (C/NF) Summary: Australia supports the extension of the G8 Global Partnership beyond 2012 and is open to making a contribution to that effort. After making a significant pledge to the Global Partnership when it was launched in 2002, Australia is interested in greater involvement in Partnership activities, especially within the region. However, officials are skeptical of the G8 and reluctant to fully commit to a G8 program. This will likely limit the level of Australian involvement the Partnership. End Summary.

"We'll do our bit"

12. (C/NF) Australian Officials and NGOs expressed general enthusiasm for the U.S. non-proliferation agenda outlined by Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs, on a recent visit to Australia. Ambassador Jenkins visit was in support of the G8 Global Partnership, a ten year program aimed at countering nuclear proliferation. The Global Partnership is set to expire in 2012, but Ambassador Jenkins is working to convince countries to commit additional funds to extend the program for another ten years. Australia pledged \$10 million to the program in 2002, when it was launched, and officials were open to renewing Australia's commitment. Peter Shannon, Assistant Secretary for Counter-Terrorism at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said that the Australian government would certainly "Do (its) bit" when it came time to contribute.

Skeptical about G8

13. (C/NF) Despite general support and enthusiasm for the Global Partnership's goals, officials bristled at the fact that it is a G8 program. Shannon questioned whether the G8 was the right forum to address the issue, and said that as things stand now it is unlikely that Australia will send a delegate to upcoming Global Partnership meetings. Australia is not a member of the G8 and greatly prefers that international issues be addressed through other forums, such as the G20. Shannon was joined by Dr. Rob Floyd, Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Security and Emergency Management for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, in hinting that Australia would be far more supportive of the program were it not to fall under the G8 umbrella.

Greater Regional Involvement Possible

14. (C) For the first ten years, the Global Partnership focused on the former Soviet Union, but as it grows, Ambassador Jenkins hopes that the program can be expanded to other parts of the world. Shannon and other Australian officials were enthusiastic about this proposition. Floyd said that Australia would consider an increase in its involvement on non-proliferation issues throughout the region, especially with Indonesia.

Australia's 2002 Pledge Paid in Full

15. (U) Australian contributions to the G8 Global Partnership are a small percentage of the \$20 billion program, but they are significant for two reasons. First, Australia is not a member of the G8. The involvement in non-G8 members in the Global Partnership has been one of its strengths. Australia, South Korea, New Zealand and several European countries have QSouth Korea, New Zealand and several European countries have all made significant contributions. Second, Australia has already contributed the \$10 million it pledged to the program. While countries such as France and Italy have pledged significantly more money, they have fallen behind in meeting their obligations. Australia is one of only a few Partnership countries that has already fulfilled its commitment.

16. (C/NF) Comment: Australia appears eager to cooperate with the United States on nuclear non-proliferation. Nevertheless, officials expressed their lack of enthusiasm for a program that falls under G8 authority. Australia is likely to contribute to the extension of the Global

CANBERRA 00000953 002 OF 002

Partnership regardless, but the fact that the Global Partnership is a G8 effort will limit the size and scope of the Australian commitment. End Comment.

CLUNE